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ome Home to Montana State Parks

Whether you are a first time visitor to a Montana State Park or a veteran park visitor, we make it our goal to help you feel at home. We are pleased to share Montana's historic places, geological wonders, dazzling waters, and natural hideaways with you. If there is anything you need while you're visiting our parks, look for our friendly staff and amazing volunteer crew. You'll also find phone numbers and email addresses in this brochure, along with a brief glimpse of the treasures that our parks hold for you.

We look forward to seeing you in a Montana State Park.

Doug Monger

MONTANA STATE LIBRARY
1515 E. 6TH AVE.

Cover photo by Doug O'Looney

Welcome Home to Montana State Parks

MONTANA STATE LIBRARY
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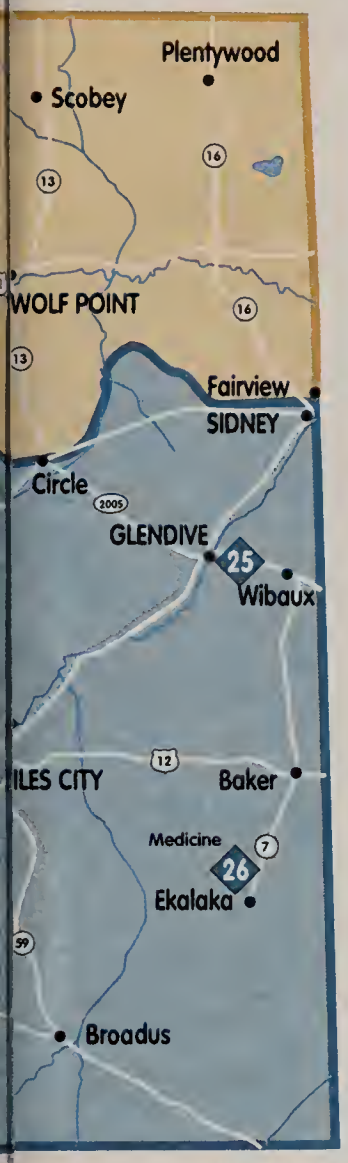


MAP COURTESY OF TRAVEL MONTANA

stern

° = Includes Disabled Access
* = Pending Completion in 2001
◊ = Fish Cleaning Station

	Page #	Camping	Group Facilities	Picnicking	Day Use Only	Showers	Dump Station	Visitor Center Info.	Interpretive Displays	Hiking/Interp. Trails	Boat Launch	Hand Launch Access	Fishing	Swimming	Drinking Water	Pack-in/Pack-out	Toilets	Rental Accommodations	Max. Trailer Length
Northwestern Montana-Region 1																			
Flathead Lake (6 units)	6																		
Big Arm	6	•	•	•		°					•		•	•	•		°	•	30'
Finley Point	6	°		°							°		°	•	°		°		40'
Wayfarers	6	•		•		*	•				°		°	•	•		°		50'
West Shore	6	•		•					•	•	•		•	•	•		•		36'
Wild Horse Island	6				•								•	•		•			
Yellow Bay	6	•		•		•					•		•	•			•		30'
Lone Pine	10		•	•	•			°	•	°					•		°		40'
Logan	10	•	•	•		*	•				•		•	•	•		•		30'
Lake Mary Ronan	8	•	•	•							•		•	•	•		•		35'
Thompson Falls	14	•		•							•		•	•	•	•	•		30'
Whitefish Lake	14	•		•							•		•	•	•		•		25'
Western Montana- Region 2																			
Anaconda Stack	4																		
Beavertail Hill	4	•		•						•	•		•		•		°	•	28'
Council Grove	4			•	•				•				•		•	•	°		20'
Fort Owen	6			•	•			•	•								•		20'
Frenchtown Pond	6			•	•		•					•	•	•	•		•		
Granite Ghost Town	8				•				•										
Lost Creek	10	°		•					•	•			•		•	•	°		23'
Painted Rocks	10	•		•							•				•	•	•		25'
Placid Lake	12	°	•	•		•			•		°		•	•	•		°		25'
Salmon Lake	12	°		°		•			•	•	•		•	•	•		°		25'
South Central Montana- Region 3																			
Bannack	4	•	•	•				°	•				•		•		°	•	
Beaverhead Rock	4				•											•			
Clark's Lookout	4				•											•			
Elkhorn	6				•				•							•			
Hauser Lake (Black Sandy)	8	°		°			•		•		°		°	•	•		°		35'
Lewis & Clark Caverns	8	°	•	•		°	•	•	•	•		•	•		•		°	•	
Madison Buffalo Jump	10			•	•				•	•						•	•		25'
Missouri Headwaters	10	°	•	•			•		•	•	•		•		•	•	°		25'
Parker Homestead	12				•											•			
Spring Meadow Lake	14			°	•					°		•	°	•	•		°		
North Central Montana-Region 4																			
Ackley Lake	4	•	•	•							•		•	•	•	•	•		24'
Giant Springs	8		•	°	•			°	°	°			°		•		°		
Sluice Boxes	12	•		•						•			•			•	•		
Smith River	14	•		•								•	•				•		
Ulm Pishkun	14			•	•			•	•	•					•		•		
Southeastern Montana-Region 5																			
Chief Plenty Coups	4			•	•			°	•	•			•		•		°		
Cooney ◊	4	•	•	•		°					°		•	•	•		°		
Greycliff Prairie Dog Town	8			°	•				•										
Lake Elmo	8			•	•			•	•	•	•		°	•	•		°		
Pictograph Cave	12			°	•				•	•					•		°		
Eastern Montana-Region 7																			
Hell Creek ◊	8	•	•	•							•		•	•	•		•		35'
Makoshika	10	•	•	°				°	•	•					•		°		40'
Medicine Rocks	10	•	•	•											•	•	•		
Pirogue Island	12			•	•											•			
Rosebud Battlefield	12				•				•							•			
Tongue River Reservoir ◊	14	•		•			•				•		•	•	•		°		

Ackley Lake

17 miles west of Lewistown on U. S. 87, then 5 miles south on Secondary 400, then 2 miles southwest on county road (406) 454-5840

This central Montana grassland park offers water sports, good fishing and picnic and camping sites. [Limited facilities.]

Anaconda Smelter Stack

In Anaconda on Montana 1
(406) 542-5500

At 585 feet 1.5 inches, this remnant of the Anaconda Copper Company Smelter is one of the tallest free-standing brick structures in the world. The stack may be viewed and photographed only from a distance. [No facilities.]

Bannack

3 miles south of Dillon on I-15, then 19 miles west on Secondary 278, then 4 miles south on county road (406) 834-3413

Plan a leisurely visit to Montana's first territorial capital, now preserved as a ghost town. You can fuel your imagination about the town's past in a small visitor center before wandering abandoned streets and hillsides. A small rustic campground lets you extend your visit.

Beaverhead Rock

14 miles south of Twin Bridges on Montana 41 (406) 834-3413

Take Montana 41 between Dillon and Twin Bridges to view this rock landmark resembling a beaver's head, recognized by Sacajawea in August, 1805 as she traveled with the Corps of Discovery. Site can be viewed and photographed from a distance but it is not directly accessible. [No facilities.]

Beavertail Hill

26 miles southeast of Missoula on I-90 to Beavertail Hill exit # 130, then .25 mile south on county road (406) 542-5500

Just off Interstate 90 east of Missoula, this small park offers river frontage, tipi rentals, a one-hour walking trail, and camping and picnic sites. You can fish and float easily on the Clark Fork River, but boating is carry-in only.

Chief Plenty Coups

Lockwood Exit 452 at Billings, 35 miles south of Billings, then 1 mile west of Pryor on county road (406) 252-1289

Located 40 minutes south of Billings, outside Pryor on the Crow Indian Reservation, this day-use park preserves the log home, sacred spring, and farmstead of a major Crow chief. Plan at least an hour to walk the grounds and browse through a small visitor center that interprets Chief Plenty Coups' life and the rich Crow history of the area.

Clark's Lookout

In Dillon on I-90 at Montana 41 exit, .5 mile east, then .5 mile north on county road (406) 834-3413

Captain William Clark climbed this hill overlooking the Beaverhead River to scout what lay ahead for the Lewis and Clark Expedition. You can drive to the site located just 1 mile north of Dillon off Highway 91, park right next to it, and walk the trail to the top. [No facilities.]

Cooney

22 miles southwest of Laurel on U. S. 212, then 8 miles west of Boyd on county road (406) 247-2940

Head to this irrigation reservoir, 40 minutes south of Columbus on secondary roads, to boat, play in the water, camp, and fish. It's always a busy place in the summer!

Council Grove

In Missoula on I-90 at Reserve St. Exit, 2 miles south on Reserve St., then 10 miles west on Mullan Rd. (406) 542-5500

In 1855, on this site, Issac Stevens negotiated a treaty between the U. S. government and the Salish, Kootenai, and Pend d'Orielle Indians to create the Flathead Reservation. Bring a sandwich and enjoy this day-use-only park for reflection on these historical events.

A visit to a Montana State Park is...

A walk into the past, on a battlefield, a wooden boardwalk through a ghost town or an ancient sea bed rich in dinosaur bones.

A quiet place to view wildlife or catch a fish.

A place to share stories with family or friends by the light of a campfire.

Bannack

Cooney Reservoir

Beavertail Hill

Chief Plenty Coups

Elkhorn

I-15 at Boulder exit, then 7 miles south on Montana 69, then 11 miles north on county road (406) 444-4720

Backcountry roads settle you into a 19th century mining landscape before you reach these two historic buildings. They are nestled within the privately owned town of Elkhorn. Bring your camera to record some of the finest frontier architecture in Montana.

Flathead Lake

Montana State Parks administer six parks at the largest natural fresh-water lake west of the Mississippi. Our beaches, campground and picnic areas are prized for their lake views and easy access to boating and fishing.

Big Arm State Park

14 miles north of Polson on U. S. 93 (406) 752-5501

Camping, a long beach, nature trail, and a yurt rental are all here. A more developed campground than many in our system. Use the ramp to launch your own boat to Wild Horse Island.

Finley Point State Park

11 miles north of Polson on Montana 35, then 4 miles west on county road (406) 752-5501

Enjoy one of the 16 campsites here with water and electrical hook ups, plus a boat pumpout station.

Wayfarers State Park

.5 mile south of Bigfork on Montana 35 (406) 752-5501

You'll find this site right outside Bigfork. Enjoy camping and walking, launch your boat, or use the boat and trailer dump stations.

West Shore State Park

20 miles south of Kalispell on U. S. 93 (406) 752-5501

Considered the most private park on Flathead Lake, this site is distinguished by a mature fir, pine, and larch forest. The beach is rocky but you can still swim, boat, and camp here.

Wild Horse Island State Park

Access from Big Arm via boat to Little Sheeko Bay on northwest side of island (406) 752-5501

Boat access to this day-use-only, primitive park is regulated to protect the 2,000-acre island. It preserves an endangered palouse prairie environment, incredible wildlife, and historic resources. Check with park staff on the best ways to reach the island and its trails and views. Private property is found along the perimeter of the island. [No facilities.]

Yellow Bay State Park

15 miles north of Polson on Montana 35 (406) 752-5501

You'll find four walk-in tent camping spots at this small site and a wide, sandy beach for swimming, sunbathing, scuba diving, boating, fishing, and bird watching.

Fort Owen

25 miles south of Missoula on U.S. 93 to Stevensville Junction, then .5 mile east on Secondary 269 (406) 542-5500

Fort Owen's adobe and log remains preserves the site of the first permanent white settlement in Montana. In 30 minutes you can browse through a small museum housed in preserved and partially reconstructed structures.

Frenchtown Pond

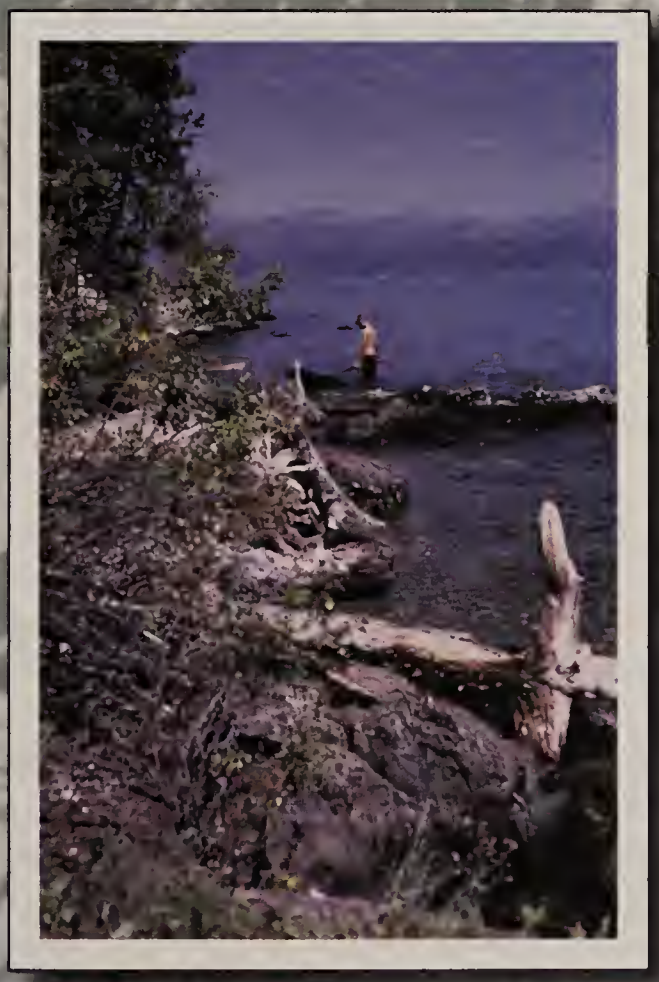
15 miles west of Missoula on I-90 at Frenchtown Exit # 89, then 1 mile west on Frontage Road (406) 542-5500

Plan to bring every one in the family to this day-use-only spring-fed lake park for a whole afternoon of picnicking, swimming , sunbathing, fishing, and reading. Non-motorized boating only.

Carved out by glaciers over 10,000 years ago, Flathead Lake is the largest freshwater lake this side of the Mississippi. The parks along its shores are the perfect sites to enjoy this magnificent place.

Wayfarer

Wild Horse Island



West Shore

Big Arm

Elkhorn

Giant Springs

Northeast edge of Great Falls, 3 miles east of U.S. 87 on River Drive. (406) 454-5840

Set aside a whole afternoon at this historic freshwater springs site. This day-use park gives you an opportunity to picnic by the Missouri River, visit the fish hatchery, walk along the Rivers' Edge Trail, or visit the neighboring Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center.

Granite Ghost Town

6 miles east of Philipsburg on forest road. (406) 542-5500

This remote mining camp calls for a camera and a vehicle with good clearance. The park preserves the Granite Mine Superintendent's House and ruins of the old miners' union hall—stark witnesses to Montana's boom-and-bust silver mining industry. (No facilities.)

Greycliff Prairie Dog Town

Take Greycliff exit from 1-90 (406) 247-2940

Grab your camera and hop off Interstate 90 at Greycliff to delight in the playful, curious blacktailed prairie dogs who live here. An interpretive sign will help you understand these important and entertaining mammals. (No facilities.)

Hauser Lake, Black Sandy

7 miles north of Helena on I-15, then 4 miles east on Secondary 453, the 3 miles north on county road (406) 444-4720

One of the few public parks on the shores of Hauser Reservoir, this popular campground provides access for boating, fishing, and waterskiing.

Hell Creek

25 miles north of Jordan on county road (406) 232-0900

You'll reach this campground park, 25 miles north of Jordan, through the spectacular "Missouri Breaks" scenery. Once you're settled along this arm of Fort Peck Lake, you can photograph wildlife, fish for walleye and enjoy many water sports in this Missouri River country.

Lake Elmo

In Billings, U. S. 87 north to Pemberton Lane, then .5 mile west (406) 247-2940

This urban day-use park attracts visitors to swim, sailboard, and fish. A display in the Fish, Wildlife & Parks headquarters located on site provides weekday interpretation of the park. During the summer a concessionaire offers food, beverages and non-motorized watercraft rental. Plan to stretch your legs on a walk around the lake.

Lake Mary Ronan

23 miles north of Polson on U. S. 93 at Dayton, then 7 miles northwest (406) 752-5501

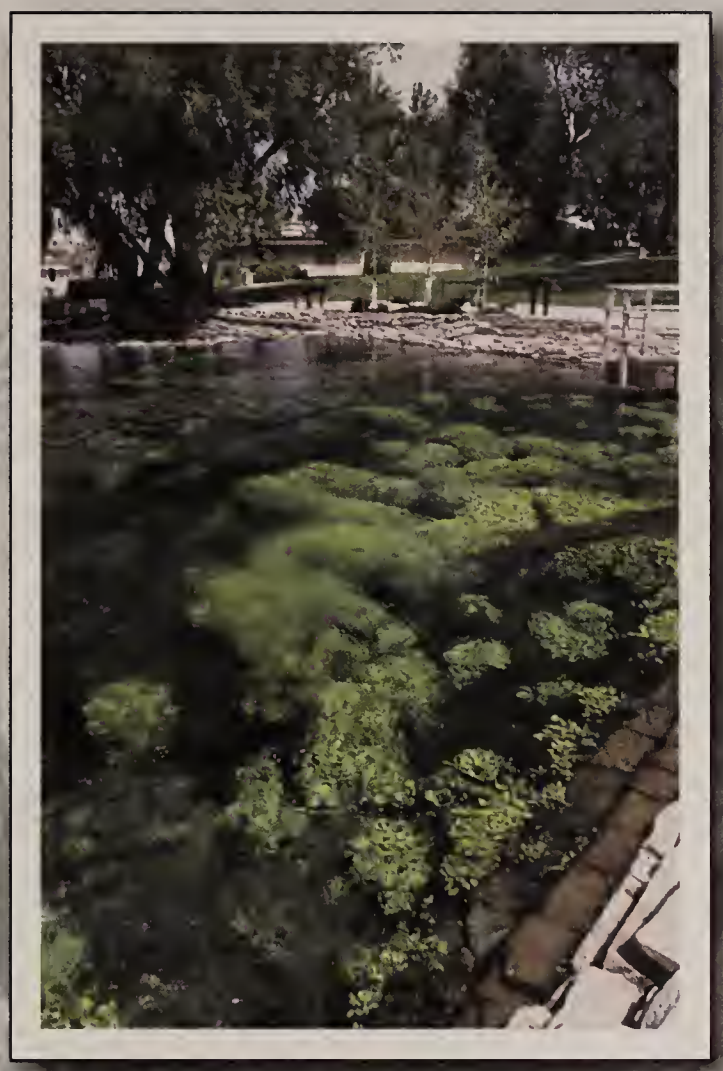
Just seven miles west of Flathead Lake, and off the beaten path, this shady park provides a quiet opportunity to pick huckleberries, hunt mushrooms, and spot interesting birds. You can also fish, swim, and camp.

Lewis and Clark Caverns

19 miles west of Three Forks on Montana 2 (406) 287-3541

This park showcases one of the most highly decorated limestone caverns in the Northwest. Plan to spend a minimum of two hours to hike two miles on a guided tour through stalagmites, stalactites, columns, and flowstone. The park also provides hiking trails, a visitor center, an amphitheater, several picnic areas, a large campground, showers, RV dump facilities, and three rental cabins. You can use this park as "base camp" while you enjoy several nearby parks and the adjacent Jefferson River.

"The water boils up among the rocks and with such force near the center, that the surface seems higher here than the earth on the side of the fountain."
—Observations of Merriwether Lewis, June 1805, at present day Giant Springs State Park.



Giant Springs

Black Sandy

Hell Creek

Lake Mary Ronan

Lewis and Clark Caverns

Logan

45 miles west of Kalispell on U. S. 2
(406) 752-5501

This park nestles in 17 acres of mature forest that is adjacent to 3,000 acres of recreation opportunities within the " Thompson Chain of Lakes." It's a comfortable spot for swimming, boating, camping, water-skiing, and fishing.

Lone Pine

4 miles southwest of Kalispell on Foy Lake Road, then 1 mile east on Lone Pine Road (406) 752-5501

Overlooking the magnificent Flathead Valley, this day-use-only park provides residents and visitors with information about the Valley's cultural and natural history. Plan a couple hours to picnic, hike, and browse through the small visitor center.

Lost Creek

1.5 miles east of Anaconda on Montana 1, then 2 miles north on Secondary 273, then 6 miles west (406) 542-5500

These spectacular gray limestone cliffs and pink and white granite formations rise 1,200 feet above the canyon floor a short way outside industrial Anaconda. You're likely to see wildlife in this park and you will enjoy a short hiking trail to the 50-foot Lost Creek Falls.

Madison Buffalo Jump

23 miles west of Bozeman on I-90 at Logan exit, then 7 miles south on Buffalo Jump Rd. (406) 994-4042

You'll find this day-use-only park seven graveled miles off Interstate 90 at the Logan exit. Take a picnic along. Hike to the top of the jump for impressive views of the Madison River valley and the opportunity to imagine how the area might have looked when prehistoric people "called" bison to jump to their death below the cliffs. Solitude and interpretive signs help set the scene.

Makoshika

On Snyder Avenue in Glendive
(406) 365-6256

Plan at least an afternoon to enjoy Montana's largest state park. You'll find a visitor center at the park entrance with exhibits explaining the site's geologic, fossil, and prehistoric stories. Roads and hiking trails let you explore the park's whimsical badlands landscape. Or try out the campground and the park's folf (frisbee golf) course.

Medicine Rocks

25 miles south of Baker on Montana 7
(406) 232-0900

Serenity is here among this park's weathered sandstone rock formations. The combination of geologic and Indian history give this unique landscape greater meaning. You'll enjoy photography, hiking, and wildlife viewing in this remote and primitive site.

Missouri Headwaters

3 miles east of Three Forks on I-90 at Three Forks exit, then east on Secondary 205, then 3 miles north on Secondary 286. (406) 994-4042

This park encompasses the confluence of the Jefferson, Madison and Gallatin Rivers. Lewis and Clark anticipated this important headwaters all the way up the Missouri River. An easy three-mile drive off Interstate 90 at Three Forks, this undeveloped park provides outdoor interpretive signs, picnic spots, short hiking trails, a small campground, and—just as the Corps of Discovery found—plenty of mosquitoes!

Painted Rocks

17 miles south of Hamilton on U. S. 93, then 23 miles southwest on route 473
(406) 542-5500

Located in the scenic Bitterroot Mountains, this 293-acre park offers boating and water sport opportunities on the reservoir. The remote pine-forest setting is a great get-away for a weekend of camping, fishing and relaxation.

The limestone cliffs and thick forest of Lost Creek State Park provide a "Welcome Home" to mountain goats, bighorn sheep, moose, black bears and mule deer.

Makoshika

Missouri Headwaters

Logan

Medicine Rocks

Lost Creek

Lone Pine

Parker Homestead

18 miles west of Three Forks on Montana 2 (406) 994-4042

This small, one-acre park preserves a simple sod-roofed log cabin built in the early 1900s. Pioneers across Montana accepted the hardships, limits, and opportunities of such frontier homes. Step into one family's past. The site offers great photo opportunities and a quick visit to our past.

Pictograph Cave

In Billings on I-90 at Lockwood exit, then 6 miles south on county road. (406) 247-2940

Nestled at the base of picturesque sandstone cliffs, this park preserves and interprets ancient rock paintings and a prehistoric habitation site. A paved trail loops around the base of the cliffs. Interpretive signs explain the now-fading pictographs and tell the story of Montana's first professional archaeological studies and excavations. This day-use-only site is just six miles south of Billings. Take a picnic lunch and your curiosity.

Pirogue Island

1 mile north of Miles City on Montana 59, then 2 miles east on Kinsey Road, then 2 miles south on county road (406) 232-0900

Floaters find this isolated and undeveloped Yellowstone River island an excellent spot to view wildlife, envision the Corps of Discovery's travel along the river, and hunt for moss agates. The site is a haven for waterfowl, bald eagles, and whitetail and mule deer. During low water, a small channel can be forded by vehicle to obtain access to the island from the mainland. (No facilities.)

Placid Lake

3 miles south of Seeley Lake on Montana 83, then 3 miles west on county road (406) 542-5500

Located in the beautiful Clearwater/Swan River Valley, this popular campground park provides smooth water for good fishing and water sports. Use this site as a base for other recreational opportunities in the area, watch for wildlife, and check out the interpretive panels that tell you about early logging practices.

Rosebud Battlefield

25 miles east of Crow Agency on U.S. 212, then 20 miles south on Secondary 314, then 3 miles west on county road. (406) 232-0900

This 3,000-acre Eastern Montana rolling prairie park preserves the site of the June 17, 1876, battle between the Sioux and Cheyenne Indians and General Crook's soldiers. Remote, quiet, and undeveloped, the park includes prehistoric sites and the homestead and ranch of the Kobold family. Take your own food, your camera, and plenty of time to appreciate a slice of time and place. (No facilities.)

Salmon Lake

5 miles south of Seeley Lake on Montana 83 (406) 542-5500

Immediately adjacent to Montana 83, this park is an access point to one of the beautiful links in the Clearwater River chain of lakes. Plan to fish, picnic, launch your boat, water-ski, read, review interpretive signs, or let your children get the wiggles out after a long drive.

Sluice Boxes

15 miles south of Belt on U.S. 89, then 2 miles west on county road. (406) 454-5840

Remains of mines, a railroad, and historic cabins line Belt Creek as it winds through a beautiful canyon carved in limestone. A primitive trail will give you access to fishing, challenging floats, and wildlife viewing. You definitely want your camera handy when you spend a day or a weekend in this remote setting. (No facilities. Check with Fish, Wildlife & Parks staff in planning your trip.)

Walking the site and understanding the Battle of the Rosebud, fought June 17, 1876, provides a better perspective to the outcome of the battle that occured eight days later at the Little Bighorn.

Pictograph Cave

Sluice Boxes

Placid Lake

Salmon Lake

Smith River

16 miles northwest of White Sulphur Springs on secondary 360, then 7 miles north on county road (406) 454-5840

A 61-mile float trip down this remote river canyon will immerse you in outstanding scenery and excellent fishing. Boat camps located along the river from the put-in point at Camp Baker to the take-out at Eden Bridge help preserve the unique quality of this area. Permits are required to float the river. Call the number indicated to the left for more details.

Spring Meadow Lake

From Helena, Montana 12 west, north on Joslyn to Country Club Avenue (406) 444-4720

This urban, day-use-only park is a popular spot for family afternoons of swimming, sunbathing, scuba diving, fishing, birdwatching, and pure play. When you tire of the beach, walk the park's easy nature trail that circles the stone-quarry that's become a lake. In winter, you can still stroll along the trail and, if it's cold enough, ice-skate on the lake.

State Capitol Grounds

In Helena on East 6th Avenue between Montana Avenue and Roberts Street

Plan to spend at least an hour walking the 50-acre state-capitol complex when you visit Helena. The grounds are among Montana's best landscaped public lawns and gardens. Bring you camera to record each year's special state logo—presented in flowers.

Thompson Falls

1 mile northwest of Thompson Falls on Montana 200 (406) 752-5501

This mature, pine-forest park adjacent to Noxon Rapids Reservoir, is cool and quiet. You're welcome to camp, walk, birdwatch, fish, and just enjoy the peace.

Tongue River Reservoir

6 miles north of Decker on secondary 314, then 1 mile east on county road (406) 232-0900

The 12-mile long reservoir is situated among scenic red shale, juniper canyons, and the open prairies of southeastern Montana. The park is loved by Montana and Wyoming anglers, campers, and boaters. It's remote, so plan accordingly.

Ulm Pishkun Buffalo Jump

10 miles south of Great Falls on I-15 at Ulm Exit, then 4 miles northwest on county road. (406) 866-2217

A visitor center and interpretive trails tell the story of this prehistoric bison kill site, one of the largest in the United States. For hundreds of years, Indians stampeded buffalo over the mile-long cliff. Now, the top of the jump gives you panoramic views of the Rocky Mountain Front, the Missouri River, and the buttes and grasslands that characterized this High Plains setting. Plan at least a two-hour stop in this day-use-only park.

Whitefish Lake

1 mile west of Whitefish on U. S. 93, then 1 mile north (406) 752-5501

Although it's right on the outskirts of Whitefish, this small park provides a mature forest and a pleasant campground and beach. Peaceful water invites water-skiing and swimming. Children love the trains that rumble along the park's edge.

Looking up at the cliff from the Ulm Pishkun visitor center, imagine the bustle of activity that took place for centuries at this site.

Spring Meadow Lake

Ulm Pishkun

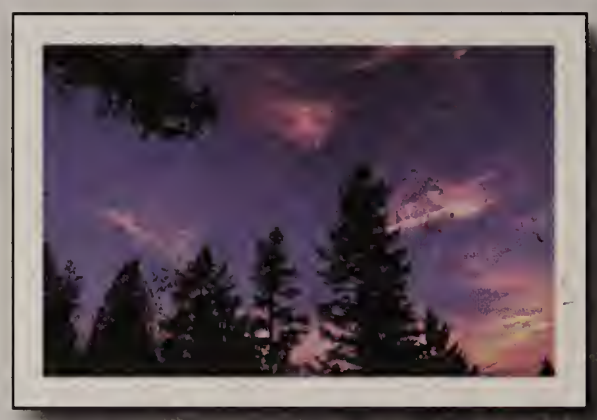
State Capitol Grounds

Thompson Falls

Whitefish Lake

Tongue River

A CENTURY OF CONSERVATION
1901 2001
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks



If You Need Immediate Emergency Assistance:
Call: 911
To Report Vandalism:
1-800-TIP-MONT, 1-800-847-6668
(Your call can be anonymous. You may be eligible for a reward.)
For More Information about Montana State Parks:
By phone: 1-406-444-3750
Electronically: www.fwp.state.mt.us
For General Montana Travel Information:
By phone: 1-800-VISIT-MT
Electronically: www.travel.state.mt.us

Park Rules
Every park in the Montana State Park System has rules. Look for them posted close to the entrance of the park. Although they vary from park to park, our rules are written to make sure that:

- You, and other visitors, are able to enjoy the park safely without getting in each other's way too much;
- our parks' natural and historic resources are preserved for the future, for your children and their children;
- park facilities are protected. Vandalism only increases your taxes and fees.

Park Fees
Most Montana State Parks charge day-use and camping fees. Be sure to check out our cabins, tipis, and yurts.

All the fees that you pay are returned to our Montana State Park system to maintain and protect resources and to provide visitor services.

You may be asked to use a self-pay registration system when you first enter a park. Park staff will visit you later in your stay.

If you prefer not to pay day-use fees each time you visit a park, you can purchase an annual Montana State Park Passport. (Passports used by units of the National Park Service are not valid in State Parks.)

What are Primitive Parks?
By law, several Montana State Parks are designated "primitive." Montana residents do not pay day-use fees to enjoy these parks. Facilities are limited.

Volunteering our Parks
The folks who greet you, tidy up your campground, or introduce your campfire program may be volunteers. Montana State Parks offers many duty stations and projects for volunteers. For more information, please call 1-406-444-3750

Season
Some parks are open for day use and camping year around, others are only open May through September. Please call during the winter months for more information.

Camping
Campsites in Montana State Park campgrounds are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Most campsites provide basic facilities, (level pad, picnic table and fire ring). Check the listings in this brochure for additional information on each site, such as showers, dump stations, and interpretive trails.

TDD Number
The telephone device for the deaf number is 444-1200